7. Review of 2023–2026 AP Action Plan
8. Updates on the Council IRA Projects
9. Other Business
10. Public Comment
11. Discussion and Recommendations

Schedule and Agenda for the Mariana Archipelago FEP Guam AP Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (Chamorro Standard Time)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of the Last AP Recommendation and Meetings
3. Feedback from the Fleet
A. Fourth Quarter Fisher Observations
B. Fisheries Issues
4. Council Fisheries Issues
A. Modifying the Guam Bottomfish Rebuilding Plan
5. Guam Military Working Group Update
6. Updates from NOAA Fisheries' SEES Program
7. Review of 2023–2026 AP Action Plan
8. Updates on the Council IRA Projects
9. Other Business
10. Public Comment
11. Discussion and Recommendations

Special Accommodations

These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 13, 2024.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–26844 Filed 11–15–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XE408]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Request for an Exempted Fishing Permit

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt of an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from Texas Sea Grant. If granted by NMFS, the EFP would authorize the continued testing of new designs for bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) for finfish, in the commercial shrimp fishery in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). The Better BRDs for the Gulf Shrimp Fleet Project is a collaborative effort to restore finfish populations and reduce finfish bycatch mortality through the development and certification of new BRDs for use by the commercial shrimp industry throughout the Gulf. This notice gives the public an opportunity to provide comments to NMFS regarding the request for an EFP.

DATES: Written comments must be received no later than December 3, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the application, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2024–0128 by either of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and type NOAA–NMFS–2024–0128 in the Search box. Click the ''Comment'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- *Mail:* Submit all written public comments to Frank Helies, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *https://www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments—enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous.

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/commercial-fishing/better-bycatch-reduction-device-gulf-shrimp-fleet-project/.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Helies, phone: 727–824–5305, email: *frank.helies@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EFP is requested under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*), and regulations at 50 CFR 600.745(b) concerning exempted fishing.

The EFP application submitted to NMFS involves the use of experimental fishing gear (BRDs) on shrimp trawls in Federal waters. Federal regulations require fishermen on shrimp vessels to use NMFS certified BRDs while trawling for shrimp in Gulf Federal waters [50 CFR 622.53(a)]. The applicant is seeking an EFP that would exempt these research activities from the regulations requiring the use of certified BRDs in Federal waters of the Gulf at 50 CFR 622.53(a), and would allow the applicant to replace an existing approved BRD with one of four experimental BRD configurations as determined by the applicant. The specific EFP request is further described below.

The Better BRDs for the Gulf Shrimp Fleet Project is a collaborative effort between Louisiana Sea Grant, Texas Sea Grant, NOAA Restoration Center, and NMFS to restore finfish populations injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill through the development and certification of new BRDs for the commercial shrimp industry throughout the Gulf. The project involves the phased testing of new BRD designs in the commercial shrimp fishery in Federal waters of the Gulf. The new BRD designs could demonstrate a greater reduction in bycatch of finfish, over the federally certified Fisheye BRD, which may also lead to an overall increase in shrimp catch.

The project would further identify and develop new bycatch-reducing technology to reduce finfish discard mortality in commercial shrimp trawls. Additionally, the project seeks to advance cost-effective solutions for the Gulf shrimp fleet that would maximize the adoption and use by fishermen of any improved designs for BRDs that could be certified for use in the fishery.

The project is separated into several phases. The first phase that began in 2022 included proof-of-concept testing of new BRD designs by NMFS Gear Research Branch partners. This proof-of-concept testing included both dive and vessel testing aboard the research vessel Caretta. The dive testing was conducted off Panama City, Florida, and the vessel testing was conducted off Pascagoula, Mississippi. New BRD designs that showed the potential to be effective during proof-of-concept testing were accepted for further evaluation during the project's next phase, which involved stakeholder testing. A final phase planned for the future would be pre-certification and certification testing of the selected BRDs, consistent with the requirements in 50 CFR 622.53(a)(2) and

the NMFS Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Manual (*https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/bycatch-reduction-device-testing-manual-2016/*).

On August 26, 2022, NMFS published a notice announcing receipt of an EFP application to allow stakeholder testing of six BRD designs: Toms Fisheye, Large Mesh Sections, Nested Cylinder, Virgil Potter, Flapless Turtle Excluder Devices, and Composite Panel Variations (87 FR 52512). NMFS issued that EFP on October 6, 2024, and it is valid until December 31, 2024. The purpose of the commercial stakeholder testing authorized under the current EFP is to allow for stakeholder input on the strengths and weaknesses of new BRD designs across a variety of species and environmental conditions within the Gulf shrimp fishery. This testing will also aid in the acceptance of new BRDs by the commercial shrimping industry when the most promising designs are later submitted for NMFS certification.

The current EFP allows selection of up to 30 federally-permitted commercial Gulf shrimp vessels to test gear that passed the proof-of-concept testing. The proposed EFP would increase the number of vessels to 50. As with the current EFP, the location of proof-of-concept testing trial vessels under the proposed EFP would be distributed across the Federal Gulf shrimp fishermen and fishing grounds throughout the Gulf in water depths of 10–50 fathoms or 18–91 meters (m). During testing, fishermen on vessels included in the EFP would be surveyed for qualitative information about the new BRDs, and any other use recommendations that are needed. Additional BRD information including time and difficulty to install, longevity, ease of use (*e.g.,* tangling during deployment or retrieval, and shark damage), bycatch and shrimp retention characteristics, and overall cost would be collected by the applicant to assist with promotion of new BRD designs for industry wide usage.

Vessels in the proposed project would be using experimental BRD designs on trips of up to 30 days at sea. Trip duration and the total number of tows with experimental BRD gear may vary based on sea conditions and vessel business factors at the discretion of the vessel operator. During a 30-day trip, approximately 90 tows with BRD-equipped shrimp trawls are expected to occur. Tow times, which is the length of time the gear is pulled through the water, would be variable between different vessels but would be consistent on the same vessel during each trip. Typical tow times average 3 hours but vary from 1 to 5 hours. If all 50 vessels participate and complete each test tow, there is the potential for a maximum of 3,000 tows for this phase of the project.

The proposed EFP would be valid through December 31, 2028. As with the current EFP, all BRD testing on federally permitted shrimp vessels would occur during the course of normal Gulf shrimp fishing operations and all of these operations would comply with all other current Federal shrimp regulations such as closed areas and size limits.

Experimental BRD Configurations

Under the proposed EFP, four experimental BRD configurations could be tested by the applicant and project vessels. Three of these designs are included in the current EFP—Large Mesh Sections, Flapless Turtle Excluder Devices, and Composite Panel Variations. Each type of experimental BRD to be tested under the proposed EFP is listed and summarized below.

Large Mesh Sections

In the Large Mesh Sections BRD, areas of the trawl net are composed of 2-inch (in) or 5-centimeter (cm) or larger stretched mesh that is much larger in size than the minimum dimensions of the mesh in the cod end of the net where the catch collects, and installed anywhere from 4 to 8 feet (ft) or 1.2 to 2.4 m from the trawl tie off rings. The larger mesh provides openings that make it easier for fish to escape the trawl net.

Flapless Turtle Excluder Devices

The project would test two different designs of flapless turtle excluder devices (TEDs) known as the Chauvin TED and the Drury TED. These are both top-shooting TEDs, which have an escape opening on the net closer to the surface, with PVC pieces placed ahead of the TED extension at the leading edge of the escape opening cut in the net. These TEDs are designed to work as both a TED and a BRD. However, neither TED configuration has been tested as a BRD.

The Chauvin TED is a top-shooting TED that contains a ''Chauvin shrimp deflector,'' which is an allowable TED modification [50 CFR 223.207(d)(8)]. A modification to the Drury TED is not an allowable TED modification. Therefore, if the Drury TED modification is tested under this EFP, the applicant would need to obtain an additional TED testing permit from NMFS prior to commencement of testing.

Composite Panel Variations

The Composite Panel BRD is a NMFS-certified design that includes two soft panels with two sets of windows that allow fish to escape on the bottom side of the net and a secondary component of either a cone fish deflector, which is designed to guide fish to the escape windows, or a large mesh section installed further down into the net. There is a potential for differences in BRD characteristics when used with a top versus bottom-shooting TED. There is also potential for differences when installed with the escape openings in a top orientation of the composite panel as opposed to the current certified design that orients the escape openings to the bottom. The EFP would allow for testing of configurations that are not already certified for use by NMFS.

Large TED Openings

Large TED escape openings are certified for industry use to comply with the TED requirements but have not been tested as a BRD. The triangular cut design shows potential for bycatch reduction. This design has an opening with a base no less than 40 in (102 cm) wide across the TED frame. The sides of the triangle taper along the bar and must each measure no less than 53 in (135 cm). Similar to the flapless TEDs, the opening allows fish to escape the net.

NMFS finds the application warrants further consideration based on a preliminary review. Possible conditions the agency may impose on the permit, if granted, include but are not limited to, a prohibition on conducting fishing gear testing within marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, special management zones, or areas where testing might interfere with managed fisheries without additional authorization. Additionally, NMFS may require special protections for Endangered Species Act-listed species and designated critical habitat, and may require particular gear markings. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NMFS' review of public comments received on the application, consultations with the appropriate fishery management agencies of the affected states, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and a determination that the activities to be taken under the EFP are consistent with all applicable laws.

Authority: 16 U.S.C 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 8, 2024.

Karen H. Abrams,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–26763 Filed 11–15–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

TIME AND DATE: Wednesday, November 20, 2024–10 a.m.

PLACE: Meeting will take place remotely and in person at 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, Room 420.

STATUS: Commission Meeting—Closed to the Public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Meeting Matter

Briefing Matter.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Alberta E. Mills, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814, 301–504–7479 (Office) or 240–863–8938 (Cell).

Dated: November 13, 2024.

Alberta Mills,

Commission Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–26892 Filed 11–14–24; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6355–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

[25–0005206–AFRL/RX]

Notice of Intent To Grant an Exclusive Patent License

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Bayh-Dole Act and implementing regulations, the Department of the Air Force hereby gives notice of its intent to grant an exclusive patent license to Trustees of Tufts College, 136 Harrison Avenue, Suite 75K–950, Boston, Massachusetts 02111, USA. Such license is exclusive.

DATES: Written objections must be filed no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of publication of this Notice.

ADDRESSES: Submit written objections to James F. McBride, Air Force Materiel Command Law Office, AFMCLO/JAZ, 2240 B Street, Area B, Building 11, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433–7109; Facsimile: (937) 255–9318; or Email: *afmclo.jaz.tech@us.af.mil.* Include Docket ARX–210727A–PL in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James F. McBride, Air Force Materiel Command Law Office, AFMCLO/JAZ, 2240 B Street, Area B, Building 11, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433–7109; Telephone: (937) 713–0229; Facsimile: (937) 255–9318; or Email: *afmclo.jaz.tech@us.af.mil.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract of Patents and Patent Application(s)

I. Oxygen-sensing materials and methods are disclosed. The materials include oxygen-sensing chromophores embedded in a solid matrix including silk fibroin in an amount by weight of at least 50% of the total weight of the solid matrix. The solid matrix possesses at least partial transparency at relevant wavelengths. The solid matrix is biocompatible and biodegradable. The solid matrix is not a hydrogel. The chromophores are distributed throughout the solid matrix. Tissue oxygenation can be estimated from phosphorescence measurements made from oxygen-sensing materials implanted in subject.

Intellectual Property

Silk-chromophore Composite Materials for in situ Oxygen Sensing. The invention is protected under U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No.63/317,929, filed on March 8, 2022, PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US2023/014796, filed on March 8, 2023, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 18/823,853, filed on September 4, 2024.

The Department of the Air Force may grant the prospective license unless a timely objection is received that sufficiently shows the grant of the license would be inconsistent with the Bayh-Dole Act or implementing regulations. A competing application for a patent license agreement, completed in compliance with 37 CFR 404.8 and received by the Air Force within the period for timely objections, will be treated as an objection and may be considered as an alternative to the proposed license.

Authority: 35 U.S.C. 209; 37 CFR 404.

Tommy W. Lee,

Acting Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2024–26826 Filed 11–15–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3911–44–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Business Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Federal advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The DoD is publishing this notice to announce that the following Federal advisory committee meeting of the Defense Business Board (''the Board'') will take place.

DATES: Closed to the public Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., 10:55 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday, November 13, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. Open to the public Tuesday, November 12, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday, November 13, 2024 from 9:45 a.m. to 11 a.m. All eastern time.

ADDRESSES: The open and closed portions of the meeting will be held in room B4 of the Pentagon Library Conference Center (PLCC), virtually (for public attendance of open portions), room 1E840 in the Pentagon, and Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Cara Allison Marshall, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the Board in writing at Defense Business Board, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 5B1088A, Washington, DC 20301–1155; or by email at *cara.l.allisonmarshall.civ@mail.mil;* or by phone at 703–614–1834.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Designated Federal Officer, the Defense Business Board was unable to provide public notification required by 41 CFR 102–3.150(a) concerning its November 12–13, 2024 meeting. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee Management Officer for the Department of Defense, pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.150(b), waives the 15-calendar day notification requirement.

This meeting is being held under the provisions of chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act'' or ''FACA''); 5 U.S.C. 552b(c); and 41 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 102–3.140 and 102–3.150.

Purpose of the Meeting: The mission of the Board is to examine and advise the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense on overall DoD management and governance. The Board provides independent, strategic-level, private sector and academic advice and counsel